



## Office of the Governor

### State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT  
Lieutenant Governor

October 2008

Dear Educator:

The Office of the Governor and the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice invite you and your students to participate in Utah's Ninth Annual *Do the Write Thing Challenge*.

The *Challenge* offers 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives and to communicate in writing what they believe should be done to change our culture of violence. Personal responsibility is emphasized. By encouraging students to make a commitment to do something about the problem, the program ultimately strives to help them break the cycle of violence in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

One boy and one girl from Utah will be selected to represent our state, along with their teacher and a parent, at the National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. in July 2009. Top essays will be published and placed in the Library of Congress.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the Challenge in their regular classroom curriculum. Please use the following list of ideas for the classroom:

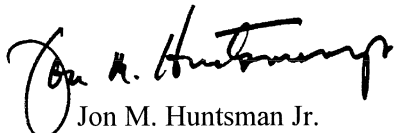
- English: may be part of an essay or poetry-writing assignment;
- Health: discuss personal safety and well-being of others;
- Civics: conduct an exercise on personal and civic responsibility;
- History: use an historical perspective to examine youth violence.

The deadline for entries is January 19, 2009. To participate, each student completes a short essay or poem and submits it to their teacher and/or principal. Each school then forwards all written essays to the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice for an initial review by college students from throughout Utah. Top regional essays will then be forwarded to the Board, who then select the top 12 essays. Finally, a panel of VIP judges selects the state winners. Contest finalists, their teacher and a parent are invited to attend a recognition luncheon where the top two authors will be announced in April 2009.

Entry forms and additional information may be found at: [www.juvenile.utah.gov](http://www.juvenile.utah.gov). To request a teacher's packet by mail, please contact Reg Garff at [rgarff@utah.gov](mailto:rgarff@utah.gov) or call (801) 538-1372.

We encourage your students' participation and look forward to this year's Challenge.

Sincerely,



Jon M. Huntsman Jr.  
Governor